

27 July 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Resumption of Balkan Food and Article Drops to  
the Balkan Satellites for Psychological Purposes

1. Pursuant to your request for a memorandum for consideration by the PBS on 29 July 1953, we set forth below an account of our past experience with food and article drops in Albania and our recommendation that such drops be resumed. These drops, constituting a tangible follow-up to the recent successful leaflet drops over Albania, Bulgaria and Rumania, would include food and certain utilitarian articles.

2. In 1952 SR Division carried out two such drops into Albania from sterile aircraft, using both free-fall packages and four-foot cloth parachutes with cloth containers, each holding five No. 2 cans. Reports from within Albania following these two drops indicated that this activity had met with outstanding success among the population. Although official Communist reaction was both quick and virulent, its impact on the Albanian people appears to have been negligible. Nevertheless, due to the bacteriological warfare charges against the United States, the then Director of Central Intelligence decided that these drops should be halted, at least temporarily. Since that time, the subject has been raised at intervals both by the field and by the British, with whom our Albanian operations are closely coordinated.

3. Adequate CIA stocks for resumption of supply drops over Albania and at least one other Balkan satellite are available in the field, as well as a large supply of inexpensive cloth parachutes, cloth containers, cans and an electric canning machine. Although the bacteriological warfare propaganda campaign of the previous year appears to have lost its momentum completely, precautionary instructions would be enclosed with each container to alert the recipient to the possibility of Communist tampering. The use of sealed cans, moreover, on which a permanent warning could be stenciled, reduces this latent hazard to a minimum.

4. In light of the foregoing, it is recommended that the present ban on such drops be lifted immediately in order to permit ourselves and the British to resume this form of psychological operations, which has already been tested and found to be effective.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES/METHODS/EXEMPTION 382B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT Acting Chief, SR  
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SE/ACPP [ ] 27 July 1993

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CONCURRENCE:

Chief, Political and Psychological Warfare Staff

for [ ] Deputy Director (Plans) [ ]

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